



# Water Quality NewsFlash

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**2006 303(d) List – Draft final posted** – Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to identify the pollutants causing environmental impairment of specific waterways. These waterbody/pollutant combinations are included on the 303(d) list. (For listing purposes, some waterways are divided into segments with one or more pollutants associated with each listed segment.) Once listed, the state (or EPA in the absence of state action) prepares a *total maximum daily load* (TMDL) for the listed waterbody/pollutant. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant a waterbody can receive from all sources and still meet water quality standards. This “safe” loading of pollutants is then allocated to dischargers and other sources. Caltrans is a participant in the development and implementation of many TMDLs throughout the state.

The State Water Resources Control Board has now released the draft final list which is an update to the 2002 303(d) list. This new list is based on the listing/delisting criteria adopted by the Board in 2004. The list is supposed to be updated every two years, however, the large amount of water quality data submitted to the Board required significant review time. An earlier draft of this list was released last year with comments accepted through January 2006.

The proposed list adds 365 water body-pollutant combinations to the 1883 on the 2002 list and recommends delisting 193. The San Diego Region had a net gain of 104 listings. The Los Angeles Region, which had been aggressive in previous listing efforts, had a net loss of 34. Comments are due Oct. 20, 2006. Draft final list: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/303d\\_lists2006.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/303d_lists2006.html)  
Listing policy - [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/docs/ffed\\_303d\\_listingpolicy093004.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/docs/ffed_303d_listingpolicy093004.pdf)

**Malibu Beach Bacteria – County to use DNA to identify sources** - LA County staff intend to test the Malibu area shoreline and runoff to determine if septic tanks are contributing to high bacteria levels at area beaches. DNA testing can determine if bacteria come from birds, wild animals, dogs, humans, or other sources. (Birds are often found to be a major contributor to bacteria contamination in waterways – see *NewsFlash 05-18*)

Malibu is not connected to the county sewer system and homes and businesses rely on septic tanks or small treatment facilities. Runoff from much of this area passes under the Pacific Coast Highway and is discharged at the shoreline. This runoff, possibly including septic tank leakage, is suspected as the cause of elevated bacteria readings on the local beaches. Trancas Beach, for example, is 303(d)-listed for beach closures and high coliform count.

An additional factor is the Laguna Point to Latigo Point Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) which covers a portion of the shoreline. Proposed requirements for ASBS would prohibit all dry weather flow to ASBS as well as limiting wet weather bacteria loadings in runoff to the loading of a stream in an unimpacted watershed. Article:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nat-gen/2006/oct/04/100408664.html>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, [Betty\\_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov) (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, [fkrieger@msn.com](mailto:fkrieger@msn.com) with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>